2003 EQIP Shelby County Local Ranking Criteria Sheet

Applicant Name:					
Date:					
	Ranking	Summary			
Resource Concern	Water Quality	Erosion	Livestock	Forestry	
Local Ranking	_				

Resource Concern	Criteria	Ranking	Methodology
Water Quality	1. Cropland Acreage with high potential for runoff of agrichemicals and sediment into perennial or intermittent receiving streams	13 pts	"Erosion Hazard Areas" maps developed for each township using a compilation of soil survey sheets will be utilized to identify soils with high potential for erosion. Within the on-site drainage area of the proposed project. If these soils exist on at least1/3 of the drainage area on the tract where the proposed project area is located, and if there is an intermittent or perennial stream identified within ½ mile of the proposed project area as identified on the Soil Survey sheet or USGS Topo Quadrangle map then there is a hit for this criterion.
	2. Proposed project area is located within the Watershed of E Coli impaired streams. based on the 303d list of impaired streams	5 pts	The 303d list will be used to identify E-Coli impaired streams. The 14 Digit Hydrologic Unit Code Area map of Shelby County will be utilized to determine if the proposed project area is located within the watershed of streams listed on the 303d list. If so, then there is a hit for this criterion.
	3. Livestock on the proposed project area have direct access to one or more of the following water bodies: ponds, lakes, intermittent or perennial streams.	5 pts	The applicant will be asked if he currently has livestock on the proposed project area and if so, do they have direct access to any of the listed water bodies. If he has one or more animal units and he is willing to exclude them from the water body(s) via EQIP Cost-shared exclusion practice then this criterion gets a hit.
	6. Offered area is not currently in a continuous no-till system which includes No-Till Corn planting	3 pts	The applicant will be asked if he is planting corn via no-till on the offered area. If the answer is no and the applicant applies for the no-till corn incentive payment under EQIP to adopt no-till corn practice, then this criterion gets a hit.
	7. Environmentally sensitive area(s) located on the offered tract or on a contiguous tract downstream from the offered area	1 pt	Environmentally sensitive areas that will be evaluated will include Wetlands, using the US F&W National Wetlands Inventory Maps, and the Rare & Endangered Species, using the subject map in the FOTG and caves identified by the applicant.

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	8. HEL land	5 pts	"Erosion Hazard Areas" maps developed for each township using a compilation of soil survey sheets will be utilized to identify soils with high potential for erosion. within the on-site drainage area of the proposed project. If these soils exist on at least1/3 of the drainage area on the tract where the proposed project area is located then there is a hit for this criterion.
	9. Abandoned wells	3 pts	The applicant will be asked if there are any wells in cropland (or pasture) acres within the tract and within the drainage area of the proposed project area that have been abandoned-i.e. are no longer needed or being used for livestock or domestic use, and that have not been sealed.
	10. Areas Where Karst Topography and /or Soil Types indicate possible groundwater vulnerability	5 pts	This criterion will be evaluated using the pertinent State Ranking Water Criteria Water Quality Map.
	High: Greater or equal to 18 pts Medium: 13 to 17 pts Low:12 or less		Place a check mark on all criteria for this resource concern met by the applicant in the yellow blocks. Add up the total points accumulated and refer to the points ranges in the block to the left to determine if the ranking is high medium or low for this resource concern and enter the ranking –high, medium, or low in the blue box. Also mark the appropriate blue box at the top of the ranking form.
Erosion	1. Acreage with high potential for erosion.	8 pts	Erosion Hazard Areas" maps developed for each township using a compilation of soil survey sheets will be utilized to identify soils with high potential for erosion. within the on-site drainage area of the proposed project. If these soils exist on at least1/3 of the drainage area on the tract where the proposed project area is located, then there is a hit for this criterion.
	2. Area with excessive erosion rates.	5 pts	Soil loss calculations will be estimated Using IN-CPA-16 form based upon existing tillage system as described by the Applicant at the time of ranking. IF soil loss exceeds T this criterion gets a hit.
	3. Area with HEL acres	5 pts	This question has been deleted: HEL soils will be captured in Erosion question 1 above. The points for this question have been combined in with Erosion Question 1
	4. Areas with higher than normal classic gullies	3 pts	If gullies are large enough that they appear on the FSA Aerial maps, and/or orthophotography of the area within the drainage area on the tract of the proposed project area, the applicant will be asked if these areas have been vegetatively stabilized. If they have not and are considered to be actively eroding, then this criterion will receive a hit.

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	5. Offered area is not currently in a continuous no-till system which includes No-Till Corn planting	3 pts	The applicant will be asked if he is planting corn via no-till on the offered area. If the answer is no and the applicant applies for the no-till corn incentive payment under EQIP to adopt no-till corn practice, then this criterion gets a hit.
	6. Perennial or intermittent streams with the potential to receive contributions of sediment via runoff from cropland acreage.	5 pts	"Erosion Hazard Areas" maps developed for each township using a compilation of soil survey sheets will be utilized to identify soils with high potential for erosion within the on-site drainage area of the proposed project. If these soils exist on at least1/3 of the drainage area on the tract where the proposed project area is located, and if there is an intermittent or perennial stream identified within ½ mile of the proposed project area as identified on the Soil Survey sheet or USGS Topo Quadrangle map then there is a hit for this criterion.
	7. Environmentally sensitive area(s) located on the offered tract or on a contiguous tract downstream from the offered area	1 pt	Environmentally sensitive areas that will be evaluated will include Wetlands, using the US F&W National Wetlands Inventory Maps, and the Rare & Endangered Species, using the subject map in the FOTG.
	High: Greater or equal to 15 pts Medium: 8 to 14 pts Low: 7 or less pts		Place a check mark on all criteria for this resource concern met by the applicant in the yellow blocks. Add up the total points accumulated and refer to the points ranges in the block to the left to determine if the ranking is high medium or low for this resource concern and enter the ranking –high, medium, or low in the blue box. Also mark the appropriate blue box at the top of the ranking form.
Livestock	Offered area is adjacent to an intermittent or perennial stream.	5 pts	If there is an intermittent or perennial stream identified within ½ mile of the proposed project area as identified on the Soil Survey sheet or USGS Topo Quadrangle map then there is a hit for this criterion
	2. Less than 180 days of storage	3 pts	The applicant will be asked about the types and number of animals and the size/dimensions of the manure storage structures. Table 1 from IDEM's CFO Guidance Document will be used to determine the required manure storage capacity. This will be compared the available storage capacity to determine if they have the required 180 days storage capacity.
	3. Existing operations	1 pt	In addition to viewing orthophotograpy of the site, the applicant will be asked if there is an existing livestock operation or if they are beginning a livestock operation.

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	4. Correction of existing problems	3 pts	Applicant will be asked if they have existing problems on the proposed project area that they intend to solve with the proposed project area treatment, what the problems are and what the proposed treatment will be. If this practice is cost-shareable under EQIP as specified in the FOTG, and the applicant understands that he will have to implement the standard in accordance with the FOTG standards under their EQIP plan and contract, then this criterion gets a hit.
	5. Livestock on the proposed project area have direct access to one or more of the following water bodies: ponds, lakes, and intermittent or perennial streams.	5 pts	The applicant will be asked if he currently has livestock on the proposed project area and if so, do they have direct access to any of the listed water bodies. If he has one or more animal units and he is willing to exclude them from the water body(s) via EQIP Cost-shared exclusion practice then this criterion gets a hit.
	6. Operation is a confined feeding operation.	3 pts	The applicant will be asked if he currently holds an IDEM permit for a confined feeding operation. He will be asked what type of livestock are in his operation and how many. If this meets IDEM's CFO definition, then it is a CFO.
	7. Within a monitored watershed	1 pt	The SWCD monitors two watersheds –Little Blue River and Conns Creek. The 14 Digit Hydrologic Unit Code Area map of Shelby County will be utilized to determine if the proposed project area is located within the Little Blue or Conns Creek Watershed. If so, then there is a hit for this criterion.
	8. Threatened and Endangered Species present	1 pt	We will use the maps in local Field Office Technical Guide
	9. Areas of high soil test P	5 pts	The Tri-State Guide will be used as to define High Soil Test P. The Applicant will be asked what soil tests results for P have been for the soils on the tract within the drainage area of the proposed project area. If he indicates that soil testing has shown high P this criterion will get a hit
	10. Pastures are not currently managed utilizing rotational grazing systems on the proposed project area	1 pt	Applicant will be asked if rotational grazing is currently being used, what kinds of animals are involved and the duration of grazing periods on the proposed project area. If rotational grazing is not being used or if the system does not meet the suggested ranges for optimal grazing duration specified in the Prescribed Grazing FOTG Standard 528A, and the applicant is interested in adopting the requirements of this standard, under the EQIP program, then this criterion gets a hit
	11. Karst areas and Areas where soil types indicate possible groundwater vulnerability	5 pts	This criterion will be evaluated using the pertinent State Ranking Water Criteria Water Quality Map

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	High Greater or equal to 15 Medium 14 to 8 Low 7 or less		Place a check mark on all criteria for this resource concern met by the applicant in the yellow blocks. Add up the total points accumulated and refer to the points ranges in the block to the left to determine if the ranking is high medium or low for this resource concern and enter the ranking –high, medium, or low in the blue box. Also mark the appropriate blue box at the top of the ranking form.
Forestry	1. Proposed project area is within a tract that is contiguous to a protected natural area such as a Federal, State, City, or County Park, wildlife management area, or forest.	5 pts	The applicant will be asked about the presence of such areas. Plat book maps and indices will be referenced at sign-up time for listings of protected sites. NRCS IT Approval is being pursued to access City/County GIS layers to identify such areas.
	2. Will efforts lead to connecting proposed forestry project area to existing forest areas that are 10 acres or more in size, or to contiguous protected Federal or State wildlife areas.	5 pts	Existing forested areas will be identified and measured using orthophotography, FSA Aerial photography and/or soil survey maps. The applicant will be asked if there are any contiguous protected Federal or State wildlife areas. Plat book will also be referenced at sign-up time for listing of protected sites.
	3. Threatened and Endangered Species.	3 pts	The maps in local Field Office Technical Guide will be used.
	4. Area of identified invasive species.	3 pts	The Applicant will be asked if there are invasive species present on the proposed project area. The "Invasive Plants In Indiana" pamphlet will be provided for applicant review during the ranking process as a guide to possible invasive species.
	5. The size of the proposed forestry project .	3 pts	Existing woods will be enlarged by 50% or more.
	6. Will livestock be excluded from the proposed forestry project area?	5 pts	If livestock will be excluded via practice under proposed EQIP program contract, then this criterion gets a hit.
	7. Has a Forest Management Plan been developed for the Proposed Project Area by a registered professional forester?	3 pts	The applicant will be asked this question. If the answer is yes, then this criterion gets a hit. (Generally, such a plan will address the issues of hunting and recreational controls. In addition to many other items- <i>This replaces previous question</i> 7.)
	8. Environmentally sensitive area(s) located on the offered tract or on a contiguous tract	1 pt	Environmentally sensitive areas that will be evaluated will include wetlands, using the US F&W National Wetlands Inventory Maps, Rare & Endangered Species, using the subject map in the FOTG, and caves identified by the applicant.

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	9. Wildlife corridor created.	5 pts	If tree planting will connect two woods, or connect woods to a perennial stream or wetland and the planting will provide a cooridor of at least 5 rows of trees, then this criterion gets a hit.
	High: Greater or equal to 12 Medium: 8-11 Low: 7 or less		Place a check mark on all criteria for this resource concern met by the applicant in the yellow blocks. Add up the total points accumulated and refer to the points ranges in the block to the left to determine if the ranking is high medium or low for this resource concern and enter the ranking –high, medium, or low in the blue box. Also mark the appropriate blue box at the top of the ra